

## **Treatment Fact Sheet for Sex Partners of Persons with Gonorrhea**

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- **Gonorrhea** is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex (oral, vaginal or anal) with a person who already has it. You have been exposed, but it is easily treated.
- Gonorrhea is easily treated with the medicine cefixime also known as Suprax®.
- Your partner may have given you cefixime (a pill) or a prescription for cefixime. This medicine was given to your partner by a health care provider to treat you. If your partner gave you a prescription, you can take it to a pharmacy to have it filled. The cost of this medicine may range from two to ten dollars.

### **Symptoms of Gonorrhea:**

Many people infected with gonorrhea DO NOT have symptoms. If you do have symptoms they may include:

- Males may experience painful urination, a white, yellow or green discharge from the penis or pain in your testicles.
- Females may experience painful urination, increased vaginal discharge, vaginal bleeding between periods, or pain during sex.
- When there is infection in the anus both males and females may experience discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding, or painful bowel movements.
- Remember, you don't have to experience symptoms to have gonorrhea. Many people can have and spread this infection without ever knowing anything is wrong.

**DO NOT TAKE** this medicine without first seeing a doctor if you:

- Are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, or fever.
- Are male and have a fever or pain or swelling in the testicles.
- Have painful and swollen joints.
- Have a rash all over your body.
- Have ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking cefixime or other antibiotics. **Please check with you doctor before taking cefixime if you have allergies to antibiotics.**
- Have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- Are currently taking other prescription medicine, including medicine for diabetes. It is okay to take this medication with non-prescription pain or cold medicines, vitamins, and birth control pills.

**If any of these are true, or you have any questions, DO NOT take cefixime and talk to your doctor as soon as possible in order to find the best treatment for you.**

### **How to Take the Medicine:**

- You have one (1) pill of cefixime, 400 mg. Take the pill with water to treat the infection.
- Take this pill with food; this will decrease the chances of having an upset stomach.
- Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) for one (1) hour before or two (2) hours after taking the cefixime pills.
- Do not share or give the cefixime to anyone else.

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### **Allergic Reactions:**

These reactions are rare but may include:

- Difficulty breathing and/or tightness in the chest
- Closing of the throat
- Swelling of the lips or tongue
- Hives (bumps on skin that itch)

**If you experience any of these allergic reactions call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately!**

### **Side Effects:**

Although most people have no side effects some may experience:

- Diarrhea
- Slightly upset stomach
- Dizziness
- Vaginal yeast infection

**These side effects are not usually serious.**

### **Important things to remember:**

- The best way to take care of this infection is to see your own doctor or clinic provider. If you can't get to a doctor in the next several days, you should take the cefixime.
- If you choose not to take the medicine to treat gonorrhea you can get very sick. Females and males may not be able to have children. If you are currently pregnant, it is safe to take the cefixime, but be sure to see your doctor to get a full check-up. Notify the doctor of your pregnancy and your STD exposure and that you have taken this medication.
- If you choose to not take the medication you should seek medical care as soon as possible.
- It is important to see a doctor as soon as you can to get tested for other STDs. It is common for people to have more than one STD at the same time. Cefixime will not cure other infections.
- Do not have sex for the next seven (7) days after you have taken the medicine. If you do have sex without a condom, or with a condom and the condom breaks, during those seven days you can still pass on the infection and possibly become re-infected.
- If you have other sex partners, tell them that you are getting treated for gonorrhea, so they can get treated too. This can help to prevent the infection from being passed back to you.
- People who are infected with gonorrhea one time are very likely to get it again. It is a good idea to get tested for gonorrhea and other STDs three (3) months from now to be sure you did not get another infection.
- Antibiotics may make birth control pills less effective in preventing pregnancy. A back-up method of pregnancy prevention such as condoms should be used for at least two weeks after taking the cefixime.

If you have any questions about the medicine, gonorrhea, other STDs or STD exam and testing locations, please contact your healthcare provider or call the Arizona Department of Health Services STD Control Program: 602-364-4666 or visit the ADHS STD Program website: <http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/std/>.

*Local provider contact information here*